



## Hood Canal Bridge East-half Replacement and West-half Retrofit Project

# Get Ready



The May-June 2009 Hood Canal Bridge closure is rapidly approaching and while WSDOT and its partner agencies will help thousands of residents reach their destinations by implementing a fare-free transit and water shuttle system, others are doing some out-of-the-box thinking to get around.

After attending public events and festivals on the Olympic and Kitsap peninsulas, members of the Hood Canal Bridge Project Team heard a number of innovative ways of how residents were preparing for the six-week closure.

Here is a list of those ideas to help travelers and commuters...

### Get ready for work

#### Employers

- Ask your employees if the bridge closure will affect them and determine what you can do to assist them
- Encourage carpooling and vanpooling
- Post a notice about the closure for your employees and customers
- Suggest they establish emergency contacts in their neighborhoods who can lend a hand should the need arise
- Allow some flexibility in your employees' schedules
- Encourage employees to plan ahead and share ideas about how to get around
- Distribute information about the bridge closure. One-page fact sheets are available at [www.HoodCanalBridge.com](http://www.HoodCanalBridge.com) or by calling WSDOT at (253) 305-6400

#### Employees

- Talk with your employers and discuss how the bridge closure will affect your commute
- Review options that will allow you to work without traveling as much (telecommuting, video conferencing, teleconferencing, working 4/10s)
- Rent a room from a friend, or see if you can camp or park an RV close to your workplace
- Leave a vehicle at both park and ride lots, or a work truck on one side if you do the majority of your business there
- Join a carpool or vanpool at [www.rideshareonline.com](http://www.rideshareonline.com)
- Familiarize yourself with the bus routes that will connect to the water shuttle service
- Check with your employer to alter your work schedule as needed

### Get ready to play

- Check the Web sites of events you plan on attending for updates
- Encourage friends and family to schedule their visits to the Olympic Peninsula before or after the closure
- Take your out-of-town vacation during the closure
- Make sure your vehicle is in good working order, the gas tank is filled and you are adequately prepared for a longer trip
- Make certain your guests know the best travel options if you are hosting a gathering.
- Arrange overnight accommodations beforehand if driving to the Kitsap or Olympic peninsula as hotels may see increased business during the closure
- Give yourself some extra time so you can enjoy the scenic drive along US 101 and the communities of the Olympic Peninsula

## Get ready for healthcare

- Schedule medical appointments for before or after the closure, or consider finding local healthcare providers to assist
- Visit nearby medical facilities to determine if they can assist you during the closure
- If you are changing healthcare providers during the closure, consult with your insurance provider prior to treatment
- Utilize the fare-free, reservation-only medical bus to get to and from ongoing medical treatments that don't require constant monitoring or care in Kitsap County and Seattle
- Schedule phone consultations with your healthcare providers
- Reach out to family and neighbors with healthcare conditions, so that they are prepared for the closure
- Make arrangements – like talking to a local pharmacy or scheduling delivery to your home – to ensure you will be able to attain your medications

## Get ready to stay

- Shop locally
- Plan a “staycation” to explore local events and activities
- Stock up on supplies
- Take the opportunity to get to know your community and discover all it has to offer

## Get ready to go

- Use the fare-free water shuttle and transit systems to travel to destinations throughout the Olympic and Kitsap peninsulas (visit [www.HoodCanalBridge.com](http://www.HoodCanalBridge.com) for details)
- Be patient, courteous, drive carefully and obey the rules of the road
- Alter your routine or schedule to take less trips
- Drive during off-peak hours when possible
- Carpool with friends and family to destinations

## Get ready to share

Do you have an idea that might help others successfully plan for the May-June 2009 closure of the Hood Canal Bridge? If so, please send suggestions WSDOT at [orfeedback@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:orfeedback@wsdot.wa.gov) and we'll post them on our Web site to help your neighbors and others prepare.

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